

share the burden of debt of the poorest countries. Will it also agree to share its affluence with them? We have all embraced market forces as the guide of our development. But we must harness them to serve our common purpose. The global economy stands at a crossroads between a polar world of rich and poor and a true partnership for a common future.

Let our children say one day that when we had to choose, we chose the difficult path but we chose well and most of all, we chose together.

But our reforms must not be just economic, they must reach deep into our societies. They must reach into our civil institutions, our political structures, our human capital and our intellectual regeneration.

Economic reform and the gradual liberalization of markets all over the world reduced the role of governments. They also opened up unlimited prospects and frontiers for both the private and the voluntary sectors. Each of them is now a full partner with the government in setting policies and in implementing them. In Egypt, we have encouraged this partnership for the benefit of all citizens.

Today our private sector stands at the forefront of our efforts to modernize and grow. Egypt's spirit of private initiative has been revived. And this spirit is allowing people to pursue their dreams, to realize their full potential and to play an active part in building their future.

The Egyptian Government has learned, through hard experience, that its role is that of a regulatory, a facilitator, a guarantor of basic rights, and a provider of urgent help for those who are in need during the difficult period of transition. Above all, it is responsible for encouraging and protecting an environment in which the private sector can create jobs, wealth, goods and services. With these, come stability, security, and a sense of shared responsibility that is the essence of human society.

And at the forefront of the institutions of civil society, stand political participation and the extension of democracy and accountable government.

The road to democracy is a long one, and we travel it with confidence. We have not turned back under the most difficult conditions, economic hardships, social pressure, malicious terrorism and narrow-minded intolerance. And we will not turn back, nor will our belief in the rule of law be shaken. We will work towards consolidating our democracy gradually, steadily, and in the spirit of tolerance and cooperation that is known of the Egyptian people.

But civil society is about much more than parliamentary democracy. It is about complementing good government and creating communities with shared values. For many centuries, the voluntary sector in Egypt played a crucial role in binding our society together, even during some of the hardest times. The spirit of charity and compassion advocated by Christianity since the Holy Family's journey in ancient Egypt, and the strong message of sharing carried forward by Islam fourteen centuries ago, have both endowed our society with a deep sense of civil responsibility. Today, as a result of falling boundaries all over the world, a global agenda for social development is being put forward. Our voluntary sector must be involved in the setting of such agenda and in playing an active part in its implementation.

Our success in redirecting our economy and reviving our civil institutions is real. It is tangible and we build on it. But what is

the value of success if it is not based on human dignity? Indeed, can there be any success if the human being is neglected?

The only long term guarantee of sustainable development, the main source of value and competitiveness, is investment in human capital. Egypt's history and ancient civilization taught us this reality. For thousands of years, investment in human capital was the cornerstone of every success. It allowed pyramids to be built, rivers to be tamed, innovations to be discovered, and art to flourish.

Our investment in human capital has been in all fields. It covers education, health and basic services. It aims at preserving the environment, encouraging creative thinking and maintaining family values. It is conscious and respectful of human rights in the most comprehensive sense. Human rights which include every individual's right to freedom of speech, of expression and intellectual fulfillment, the right to a happy childhood, to a productive life and a peaceful retirement, to a decent environment, basic services, shelter, and food. Moreover, it aims at building cultural bridges with people throughout the world.

But beyond this, the key to our basic development is the status and role of women in our society. For this we have used every means to improve women's share in education, in health services, in job opportunities, and in leading a fulfilling life as members of a family, a community and a country.

But the true essence of Egypt's endurance and prosperity over the centuries, is the sense of belonging to one community. One nation founded on equal worth and equal rights for every individual. Throughout the centuries, Egypt sheltered people from every origin, background, creed and race. Their traditions and cultures, their habits and customs have melted to form one people. This is a country where all are equal in law, in practice and in spirit, men and women, peasants and urban dwellers, rich and poor, regardless of their creed or beliefs.

Since the dawn of time, Egypt's position in the world, its natural resources and cultural diversity have allowed her to be at the crossroads of civilization. The same is true today. We have built a country of the twenty-first century that has bridged millennia of history with a boundless future, the traditions of old and the energy of youth. We have blended economic reform and social balance, western progress and eastern values. A haven between a prosperous North and a South full of promise. We seek to modernize by embracing change and not defying it, centered around human nature selfless and self-interested, cooperative and competitive all at once.

We are a country that has found its balance. We will share it in friendship with all.

In this place of learning, in this place of excellence, you foster sharing, understanding, and tolerance. You bring forth the future like we do in reform. And in the end we must join hands, for the many lives we change, will one day, shape the century to come in the image of our dreams.

Thank you very much.

SWOYERSVILLE ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the

Centennial Anniversary of Swoyersville Borough in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Borough will celebrate at a banquet on July 3. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

Originally part of Kingston Township, Swoyersville first sought incorporation as a borough in 1888, but the action was challenged in court. Eleven years later, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania sustained the incorporation and the Borough was officially born.

Named for coal baron John Henry Swoyer, mining was the major industry in the Borough at the time. Swoyersville was broken up into sections, such as Shomemaker's Patch and Maltby, with several smaller sub-divisions within the sections. The patches were groups of company homes owned by the coal companies. Today, coal mining is just a part of Swoyersville's history, as are the garment and clothing factories which replaced that industry.

In 1972, when Tropical Storm Agnes caused the Susquehanna River to overflow her banks, eighty percent of the town was inundated. Like all residents of the Wyoming Valley, the townspeople pulled together during the summer of 1972, shoveled mud out of their homes, and began to rebuild. Today, Swoyersville flourishes as a beautiful residential area.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with the community in recognizing this milestone anniversary of the Borough Charter. I send my sincere best wishes to the people of Swoyersville as they gather for their Centennial Celebration.

VERMILLION COUNTY'S 175TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEPHEN E. BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 175th birthday of Vermillion County, Indiana. Nearly two centuries of proud history and tradition encompass an area only seven miles wide and 37 miles long. The county's unusual shape was formed in order to better govern and patrol the area when it was still a frontier on the Wabash River.

Vermillion County gained its name from a French translation of a Miami Indian word meaning "red earth," or clay. For years, clay provided a major business for this county. Now businesses such as Eli Lilly, Inland Container, Public Service Indiana, Peabody Coal, and the Newport Army Ammunition Depot are the major employers that exist in this "red earth" county.

Even though Vermillion County is small in size, many notable figures have called it home. Henry Washburn, a Newport lawyer, was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the 18th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Washburn and his regiment served heroically in several battles such as Pea Ridge, Ulysses S. Grant's Vicksburg campaign, and Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley campaign. After the Civil War, Washburn was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he contributed to the creation of Yellowstone National Park.

Born on a farm near Dana was yet another historic figure, the famous World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle. Pyle accompanied American servicemen in both the European and Pacific theaters. Pyle's work portrayed the grim aspects of war and also the lighter moments between the chaos. His writing was, and still is, seen as some of the best journalism of the twentieth century.

Besides historical figures, Vermillion County has also been home to entertainment personalities as well. The actor Ken Kercheval was born in Wolcottville. One of his most notable acting jobs was on the hit television series "Dallas." Kercheval has even had a guest appearance on "ER." Another Vermillion native is Jill Marie Landis. Landis is a nationally best-selling author. She has written 13 award-winning books. Landis claims that her childhood in Clinton, Indiana, helped to inspire her stories.

I congratulate all of the residents of Vermillion County who are taking part in the 175th birthday celebrations.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN I

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today in Armenia, the spiritual leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church passed away after a serious illness. I was saddened to learn of the death of His Holiness Karekin I, the Catholicos of the Armenian Church.

Elected as the 131st leader of the Armenian Church following the death of Vazgen I in 1995, Karekin I called for a peaceful solution in Nagorno Karabagh.

Karekin I, who led the church for 4 years, spent much of his time visiting with the faithful, who live in many different areas of the world. Prior to rising to become the Catholicos, His Holiness was educated at Oxford, England, and he served the church in Lebanon, Iran and New York.

His Holiness was an important world figure. He was among the most prominent spiritual leaders—a man who was important not only to Armenians but to people of all faiths. He was a well-respected figure throughout America. Not only did Karekin I serve the church in New York, but he also visited communities throughout the United States frequently.

As millions of Armenians mourn his passing, we will all feel a deep loss. He stood for peace and justice. He was known as an eloquent and passionate orator. He worked with other religious leaders to strengthen the ties and understanding between people of different faiths.

Karekin I led a church whose history dates back to 301 A.D., when King Trdat III proclaimed Christianity as the state religion of Armenia. For much of the past fifteen centuries, the Armenian Church and its spiritual leaders have been the embodiment of the national aspirations of the Armenian people.

As the people of Armenia move forward towards peace and prosperity, it is important to

remember those who have helped lead the way. The commitment of Karekin I to the faith and to the Armenian people will not be forgotten.

DOING GOOD FOR HUD

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues from The Philadelphia Inquirer on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's activities in Philadelphia.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, June 22, 1999]

DOING GOOD FOR HUD

FOR A BUREAUCRACY, IT'S A STARTLING MOVE: SENDING SKILLED PROFESSIONALS OUT OF THEIR OFFICES WITH SWEEPING ORDERS TO HELP PEOPLE. THEY ARE "COMMUNITY BUILDERS" IN WHAT HUD SECRETARY ANDREW CUOMO CALLS "AN URBAN PEACE CORPS."

(By Maida Odom)

John Carpenter drives past rubbish-filled lots in Philadelphia, wondering if there's some way to get them into the hands of owners who would clean them up.

Cynthia Jetter solves problems and investigates complaints from advocates for the disabled—the same people who last month protested outside her employer, the U.S. Office of Housing and Urban Development in Washington.

And Michael Levine, a career Washington bureaucrat now in Philadelphia, is getting to see some of the social programs he helped design. "When you come in and meet people in a situation, you realize no program in itself is going to solve the problem," he says.

They are executives who have left their offices—"outsiders" with connections, insiders now on the street.

They are HUD employees, members of a unique group of two-year "fellows" called community builders. Handpicked from inside and outside HUD, these special workers—about 900 at 81 offices nationwide, and 26 in Pennsylvania—have an extremely broad mandate: Do good.

Jetter was a HUD employee who left to work at the Philadelphia Housing Authority and then returned. Carpenter formerly headed a Community Development Corp. Both are assigned to the Philadelphia office, as is Levine.

HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo, who announced the program in March of 1998, dubbed these "fellows" an "urban Peace Corps"—knowledgeable professionals from private industry, social services, other branches of government and elsewhere temporarily added to a HUD talent pool that has been winnowed through years of budget cuts.

Karen Miller, who heads HUD's mid-Atlantic region, which is based here, helped write the "community builders" job description.

"What has been expected of HUD's staff was schizophrenic," she said. HUD bureaucrats were the "cops" who guarded public dollars, she said, while at the same time they were expected to offer technical assistance to the people being monitored.

"The Secretary [Cuomo] separated the two roles," she said. "The great majority [of HUD employees] are still defenders of public dollars," involved in awarding grants, mov-

ing applications through the system and monitoring spending.

"Community builders are the ones who go out and work with the community and help them do what they want and need to do."

In almost two decades as a Washington-based bureaucrat, Levine saw himself getting further away from his personal career goal "to go out and help communities develop."

As a HUD executive he was writing programs and evaluating projects. Eventually, there were few fact-finding trips into the field to see firsthand what he was planning and administering.

About half the community builders are like Levine, people who had worked inside HUD and are now getting a chance to see their work in action.

Being in the area of welfare-to-work for about a year has been eye-opening, he said. Over that period, Levine has arranged for more than 700 people—public-housing managers and tenant leaders—to get special briefings explaining the new welfare-reform laws.

In Washington, he had administered and written a program offering public-housing tenant councils \$100,000 grants to develop job opportunities. "They didn't want to spend the money for fear of getting into trouble," Levine said.

Now, as a community builder, he's helping bring together public and private sources to create computer centers at public housing developments. "A computer center is a place where children can go after school, where adults can get the literacy they need," he said.

"When I ran that program in Washington I didn't see the money being used that way. You get a different perspective. You don't realize the nuances."

"It's not like I learned any big new things to shock me. But things are much clearer now."

Before she met Jetter, Nancy Salandra, project coordinator for the Pennsylvania Action Coalition for Disability Rights in Housing, generally found herself fighting to get HUD to listen.

Jetter has been "a terrific person to work with," Salandra said. "What she says she's going to do, she does."

"She has the knowledge; she has the understanding of housing; she has the understanding about HUD; and she understands how the system overwhelms people."

In addition to meeting with groups that usually come to HUD with complaints, Jetter is bringing together people who work on housing for veterans and disabled and homeless people. She also is trying to organize a tracking method to keep up with who needs services and who's receiving them.

"We need to track the impact of programs [and] track housing, and we can better address the needs of the population."

Jetter worked for HUD for 14 years before taking over as head of resident services at the Philadelphia Housing Authority. She left there for a research project at the Manpower Demonstration Research Corp. in New York. Last fall, she rejoined HUD as a community builder. When Jetter left HUD, she thought she'd never go back. For most of her years with the agency, she felt it was growing farther away from the people it served.

People "were numbers," she said. "This is a big step for HUD to take people in from the outside. And the response has been overwhelming. P.R. for HUD is a big part of it. We go to every meeting we can, try to be as visible as possible. After a meeting, people are almost knocking you down to get your card."